Measures for operation of acute water shortage

2873. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY:

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to initiate the long term and lasting solutions to prevent acute water shortage in the country in view of the recurrence of drought in certain areas;

(b) what are the programmes taken up to conserve our water resources;

(c) whether Government are working on a Water Management Policy; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Irrigation facilities are being extended during the plan periods to reduce the rigour of drought. Furher, surveys for exploring ground water resources have also been stepped up. Studies have also been taken up on the peninsular component of the national perspective plan for water resource development which envisages the transfer of surplus water to deficit areas.

(c) and (d) The National Water Resources Council headed by the Prime Minister, in its first meeting, set up a Group of Ministers and Chief Ministers to draft a National Water Policy document. The draft is to be considered in the second meeting of the Council.

Expansion of steel plant

2874. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present capacty of TISCO steel plant and the percentage utilisation of its capacity during the last two years;

(b) whether Government have any information about its plan for expansion of its capacity; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) The following statement provides the information:—

Year	Installed Capacity of Saleable Steel	Capacity Utilisation
1984-85	1.74 MTPA	99
1985-86	1.74 MTPA	101.85%

TISCO have a licenced capacity of 2.1 million tonnes of saleable steel which they will achieve on completion of Phase II of their Modernisation Programme in 1988-89.

(b) and (c) TISCO have submitted a proposal to Government for an 'in principle' approval to further modernise their steel plant. The proposed modernisation is also expected to result in further expansion of capacity by about 1 million tonnes of saleable steel. The proposal is under examination.

Export earning from agricultural commodities

2875. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND